

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:CKJOHNSON:CEK

APPROVED BY D - MR RUSH

EUR - MR STABLER

S/S - MR. MILLER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215263

EXDIS

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TAGS, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: GOI VIEWS ON US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER, SETTING FORTH GOI VIEWS ON
US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS,
HANDED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
ORTONA DURING CALL ON OCTOBER 31:

(1) WE HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT PREOCCUPIED BY RECENT
STATEMENTS MADE BY THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, JAMES
SCHLESINGER, AND BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONCERN-
ING THE US GOVERNMENT'S DISMAY AT THE ATTITUDE OF THE
EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THE COURSE OF THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS. PUBLIC OPINION IN ITALY COULD DRAW THE CONCLUSION
FROM THE ABOVE THAT WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS, OR
AT LEAST A WEAKENING OF THE ALLIANCE, DURING SUCH DELICATE
TIMES. THIS HAS OCCURRED AT THE SAME TIME THAT AN EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS IS TAKING PLACE IN BRUSSELS, IN RESPONSE TO DR.
KISSINGER'S INITIATIVES, AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH COULD
LEAD TO THE DRAFTING OF AN ATLANTIC DECLARATION AIMED AT
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REAFFIRMING THE VALIDITY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO
OUTLINE THE GOALS TOWARDS WHICH WE MUST WORK IN THE PRESENT
PHASE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. FOR OUR PART, ITALY
INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN THE SAME SPIRIT IN

ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A NEW AND MEANINGFUL DECLARATION, IN THE HOPE THAT ITS POINT OF VIEW WILL BE SHARED BY OUR ALLIES.

(2) WE HAVE FOLLOWED, THROUGH OUR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, MR. RUMSFELD'S SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING STEPS TO BE TAKEN WITH THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND YUGOSLAVIA TO BETTER CONTROL THE CRISIS. MOREOVER, WE COMPLIED WITH US REQUESTS WHICH WERE DISCREETLY PUT FORWARD TO US. THUS, WE FIND IT HARD TO COMPREHEND MR. SCHLESINGER'S AND MR. MCCLOSKEY'S STATEMENTS.

(3) THE RECENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA NOT COVERED BY THE ALLIANCE, BUT NONETHELESS VERY CLOSE TO US AND AN AREA TO WHICH WE ARE TIED BY VITAL INTERESTS. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS IS KNOWN: WE BELIEVE THAT A CONCERTED AND UNANIMOUS POSTURE OF THE ALLIES, WHILE RESPECTING AND UNDERSTANDING WASHINGTON'S POSITION, WOULD BE THE MOST FITTING RESPONSE OF THE ALLIANCE, NOT ONLY IN RELATION TO THE ARAB WORLD BUT ALSO THE WHOLE OF THE THIRD WORLD AND WE THINK THAT IT IS NOT ONLY IN OUR OWN INTERESTS BUT ALSO IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE ALLIANCE. WE ARE FOR OUR PART FAVOURABLE TOWARDS A CEASE-FIRE WHICH WOULD OPEN THE PATH FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE, BEARING IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE NATIONS IN THAT AREA. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING AND CONTINUE TO DO SO, TOWARDS THIS END, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

(4) ALSO, WE HAVE WITNESSED A SUDDEN, BE IT TEMPORARY, DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS, SUCH AS TO JEOPARDIZE DETENTE. CONCERNED LEST THE POLITICAL-MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM SHOULD SUFFER ANY CHANGE CONTRARY TO WESTERN INTERESTS, WE HAVE CONSTANTLY WORKED TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE, WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED - (A DETENTE WHICH NECESSARILY MUST BE BASED ON A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON) - AS WELL AS THE DANGERS OF ITS WEAKENING.
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(5) WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE RAPID AND OFTEN DRAMATIC COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE LAST WEEKS HAS STRESSED THIS NEED FOR EVEN CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE ALLIES, SO AS TO ARRIVE AT MORE UNANIMOUS AND IN DEPTH EVALUATIONS, AND TO ALLOW MORE ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON AMERICAN STRATEGY AND TACTICS. ITALY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED INITIATIVES TOWARDS THAT END AND IS NATURALLY DISPOSED TO EXAMINE ANY IDEA THAT COULD ENABLE THE ALLIANCE TO CARRY OUT ITS TASKS FOR SECURITY, PEACE AND DETENTE IN THE WORLD. END OF TEXT KISSINGER

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